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ALBERTA  
PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES

# *Master Farm Families* OF ALBERTA

1958

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## Foreword

The importance of agriculture becomes of greater significance to more and more people as the world's population increases and the number of farmers declines. It is, therefore, fitting that the Government of the Province of Alberta pay tribute to the representatives of the farmers of the Province whose production provides food for an ever increasing population at home and abroad.

The Master Farm Families selected for this honour in 1958 are worthy examples of the farming industry, who through Good Farming, Right Living and Clear Thinking produce not only the daily bread of the nation but contribute as well to economic and social welfare of the country.

It is, therefore, with genuine pleasure and a deep sense of appreciation for their place in the sun that I pay tribute to the Master Farm Families of 1958.

HONOURABLE L. C. HALMRAS

Minister of Agriculture



THE JAMES McCULLOCH FARM, DIDSBURY

# Master FARM FAMILIES 1958 Southern District



MR. AND MRS. JAMES McCULLOCH  
DIDSBURY DISTRICT

A STRONG conviction that a diversified farm operation is the best insurance for Alberta farmers has brought success and province-wide recognition to the James McCulloch family of the Didsbury district, a 1958 Master Farmer.

Mr. McCulloch was born in Montana in 1902 and moved to Alberta with his parents in 1905. In 1929 he married a neighboring school mate, Mary Richardson.

It was during the difficult "'30's" that Mr. McCulloch decided that a farmer's security lay in diversification. Working on this principle, he has been able to build his holding up to Master Farm standards.

Midway Farms operate  $2\frac{1}{4}$  sections of land. There are 1,245 acres under cultivation of which some 800 acres are seeded. There are 130 head of Hereford cattle, 200 hogs, 20 sheep, six milch cows and a number of chickens.

Rotation program followed depends largely on the condition of land, weather, type of crop and previous yields. Ordinarily, two crop years are followed by one year of summerfallow. Major crop grown is

barley with about 500 acres seeded to Olli. One hundred acres is devoted to Rodney and a new hull-less oats, Torch. New registered seed is purchased every four years.

Mr. and Mrs. McCulloch have a family of four. A son, Arnold who works with his father, and a daughter, Lora, are married. Annie, 16, is attending school and living at home, while Lila, 24, is employed at Jasper.

The McCulloch farmstead is graced by two modern homes, one occupied by the senior family, and a recently completed residence by Arnold, his wife and three children.

Mr. McCulloch served many years on the local school board and was instrumental in organizing a centralized unit. A small community centre with a curling rink and hall was built on a five-acre plot of land donated by the family. A central school was built on an adjoining five acres. The Master Farmer has also served on the municipal council, and has been a member of the Didsbury Lions Club, F.U.A., Co-op. board and other local organizations.

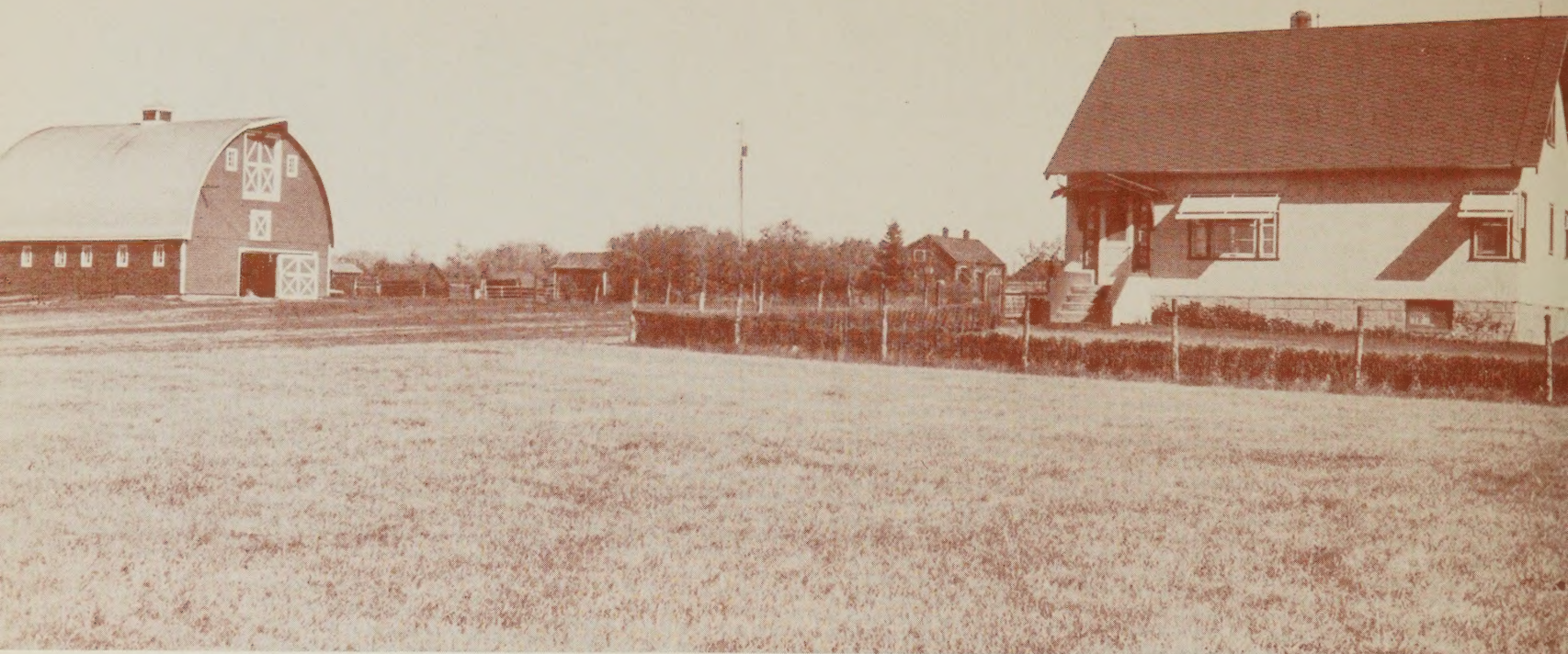
Mrs. McCulloch, too, has taken an active part in community affairs, having served as treasurer of the Bancroft Women's Institute for many years. The girls also have held executive posts on the W.I. girls' club, while Arnold is secretary for the local F.U.A. group. All in the family are active members of the United Church.



THE McCULLOCH FAMILY  
DIDSBURY DISTRICT



AND I WILL SEND GRASS IN THY FIELDS FOR THY CATTLE THAT THOU MAYEST EAT  
AND BE FULL.



THE MEL WOOD FARM, TOFIELD DISTRICT

## East Central District

A PUREBRED Hereford breeder of the Tofield district southeast of Edmonton, Mel Wood, is one of three 1958 Master Farm Family award winners.

Mr. Wood was born in Tofield in 1904, the youngest boy of a family of twelve. He attended Lakeshore rural school. When his father died in 1928, the Master Farmer-to-be gave up a promising boxing career to return to the farm.

In 1936 he married an attractive teacher, Ethyl Baines. The Woods have a family of two, Donald, 15 years of age and Margaret, 13.

Mr. Wood first took an interest in stock raising in 1942. The "Melwood Farm" now has a herd of 171 purebred Herefords, built around two original females purchased in 1942. Tamworth hogs also are raised. Two hundred Leghorn laying hens and six milch cows are kept.

The Wood farm takes in 960 acres of which 830 are under cultivation. A seven-year grass-grain rotation program is followed. Some 400 acres are seeded down to pasture and hay. Registered Thatcher wheat is grown on 100 acres and 300 acres are devoted to the growing of registered Rodney oats. One hundred



MR. AND MRS. MEL WOOD  
TOFIELD DISTRICT

acres is in summerfallow, with 300 acres of forage and pasture. A windbreak takes up 30 acres.

The fully modern Melwood farm enjoys high-line electricity. There are 28 buildings on the farmstead, including the modern seven-roomed home.

Mr. Wood has been very active in community affairs. He has been a member of the Tofield Chamber of Commerce and Community League, and was first president of the Tofield Cattle Breeders' Association. He was president of the Blackfoot Grazing Association for five years and is a member of numerous Hereford breeders' associations, and the Western Stock Growers' Association. He was among those instrumental in bringing rural electrification to the district.

A firm believer in 4-H activities, the Master Farmer is a member of the adult 4-H committee.

Mrs. Wood is president of the United Church Women's Association and has been a Sunday School teacher for many years. She is also an active worker during Canadian Red Cross and Cancer Society campaigns. She served three years as chairman of the local school board.

Both children have high scholastic standings and take a keen interest in 4-H work. Donald is president of the 4-H swine club, and vice-president of the 4-H beef club. Margaret is a first-year member of the beef club.



THE MEL WOOD FAMILY



UNSTABLE IS THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY WHICH HAS LOST ITS TASTE FOR AGRICULTURE.



THE JESPERSON FARM, STONY PLAIN

## West Central District



MR. AND MRS. ANDREW JESPERSON  
STONY PLAIN

AN Alberta pioneer dairy farmer, Andrew Jespersen, of Stony Plain, is one of the three 1958 winners of the Master Farm Family award.

Mr. Jespersen was born in Denmark in 1877 and immigrated to the United States with other members of his family in 1893. He worked as a farm-hand in South Dakota for six years, and then went into a farming partnership with a brother.

In 1903, two years after his marriage to Annie Wolfe, the young farmer decided to strike out for himself in Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Jespersen homesteaded in the Stony Plain district.

The new settlers brought two carloads of effects with them, making the journey by railroad to Strathcona, now part of Edmonton. Among their effects were twelve head of cattle and four horses.

The people of Denmark have long been known for their dairying prowess, and production of excellent dairy products. Mr. Jespersen applied the knowledge he gained as a child to his farming operations in Canada and soon his products became well known and in demand in Edmonton.

The dairy business on the Jespersen farm is now restricted to the production of milk. Operations are supervised by the family's youngest son, Ralph. The Master Farm Family owns a herd of 70 Holsteins with



**THE JESPERSEN FAMILY**

the milking herd averaging 40 throughout the year. Annual milk production averages 10,740 pounds per cow, while average annual butterfat production is 325 pounds per cow.

The Jespersens farm three quarter-sections of land. About 220 acres are devoted to forage and pasture and almost the same amount is sown annually to grain crops — oats and barley. Some 70 per cent of oats grown is consumed in farm operations with the balance and most of the barley sold commercially as registered seed. Eagle and Rodney oats are sown, while barley is of the Gateway variety.

Mr. Jespersen has been very active in community affairs throughout most of his 55 years in the Stony



Plain district. He served for three years as councillor of the L.I.D. and 14 years on the municipal district council. For more than 40 years he was a member of the local school board. The Master Farmer has also served on the district mutual telephone committee and rural electrification board.

He organized the first Baptist church in the district, serving as Deacon for many years. Mr. Jespersen is now an Elder and an active member of the Youth Camp board.

Mrs. Jespersen has also been active in church circles. She taught Sunday School for many years and was president of the Ladies' Aid for a number of terms. She has also been active in Red Cross work.



**THE GREATEST CHALLENGE OF OUR TIME IS TO STIMULATE THE NATURAL AFFINITY WHICH HAS ALWAYS EXISTED BETWEEN MAN AND THE SOIL.**



## 1949

J. G. DUSSEAUULT FAMILY .....	VIMY
W. J. EDGAR FAMILY .....	INNISFAIL
L. R. JENSEN FAMILY .....	MAGRATH
J. E. MELENKA FAMILY .....	WARWICK
JOSEPH PAQUETTE FAMILY .....	DONNELLY

## 1950

EMILE CAMMAERT FAMILY .....	ROCKYFORD
CHARLES KALLAL FAMILY .....	TOFIELD
ROY BALLHORN FAMILY .....	WETASKIWIN
E. S. PARSON FAMILY .....	BOYLE
FRED LARBRECQUE FAMILY .....	SPIRIT RIVER

## 1951

J. G. POROZNI FAMILY .....	WILLINGDON
J. W. HOSFORD FAMILY .....	S. EDMONTON
FLOYD GILKYSON FAMILY .....	LA GLACE
VICTOR WATSON FAMILY .....	AIRDRIE

## 1952

JESSE COLE FAMILY .....	CLIVE
JOHN LAMBERT FAMILY .....	MANNING
E. R. LEWIS FAMILY .....	STONY PLAIN
J. H. SCHMALTZ FAMILY .....	BEISEKER
JOHN SKRYPITSKY FAMILY .....	MUNDARE

## 1953

FRANK JACKSON FAMILY .....	KEG RIVER
ERNEST BELZIL FAMILY .....	ST. PAUL
EMIL KVARNBERG FAMILY .....	BUFORD
LESTER LOHR FAMILY .....	ERSKINE
HOWARD HYMAS FAMILY .....	ROSEBUD

## 1954

HARLIE CONRAD FAMILY .....	CLAIRMONT
MARTIN ARNDT FAMILY .....	BARRHEAD
ADAM BUYER FAMILY .....	CARBON
W. R. STORCH FAMILY .....	GARDEN PLAINS
A. W. KING FAMILY .....	HIGH RIVER

## 1955

THE ROBINSON FAMILY .....	PINCHER CREEK
B. O. BROWN FAMILY .....	ACME
CHRIS SCHNEIDER FAMILY .....	VEGREVILLE

## 1956

A. D. FRASER FAMILY .....	TEEPEE CREEK
ALFRED ROSE FAMILY .....	ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE
JOHN ROZMAHEL FAMILY .....	VIKING
WILFRED MCGILIVARY FAMILY .....	COALDALE

## 1957

NO AWARDS

## 1958

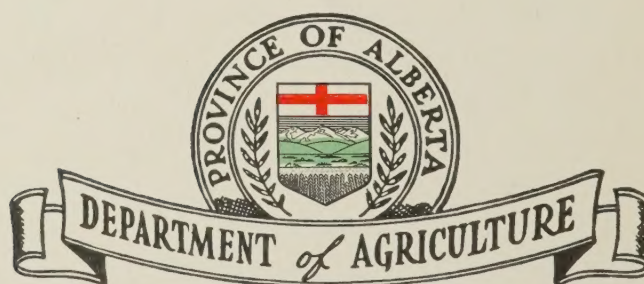
JAMES McCULLOCH FAMILY .....	DIDSBURY
MEL WOOD FAMILY .....	TOFIELD
ANDREW JESPERSON FAMILY .....	STONY PLAIN

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THE MASTER FARM FAMILY  
PROGRAM WAS INITIATED IN  
ALBERTA ON FEBRUARY 17, 1949.

IT IS A POLICY OF THE  
ALBERTA GOVERNMENT WHICH  
SEEKS TO SELECT AND HONOR  
FARM FAMILIES WHO HAVE MADE  
AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS OF  
FARMING, HOME - MAKING AND  
CITIZENSHIP.



ISSUED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
HON. L. C. HALMRAST  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE